

Remarks

Applicant has filed an RCE herewith. Claims 2-3, 6, 24-26, 31-36, and 39 were previously cancelled or are cancelled now. Claims 1, 30, and 54 have been amended to remove limitations that were not part of the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the December 9, 2004 Notice of Allowance. Some of these deleted limitations are recited in newly added dependent claims. New dependent claims 58-69 have been added to more fully describe the claimed invention. No new matter is added. Fifty-seven claims (claims 1, 4-5, 7-23, 27-30, 37-38, 40-68) remain for examination.

Examiner Interview Summary

A telephonic Examiner Interview was held between Examiner Mulpuri and Applicant's attorney Charles Lemaire (Reg. No. 36,198) on November 23, 2004. It was agreed that the claims were allowable when amended as suggested by the Examiner for an Examiner's amendment. Claim 1 and claim 30 were discussed, as were the claims that originally depended on claim 2. It was agreed that claims 1 and 30 as amended by Examiner's amendment were allowable. Claims 2, 3, and 31 were to be cancelled by Examiner's amendment. Claims that formerly depended on claim 2 were to be amended to depend on amended claim 1. It was agreed that the original claims 54-57 defined allowable subject matter, however it is requested that a typographical error (a stray period in the middle of claim 54) is to be removed by Examiner's amendment. In a subsequent telephonic Examiner Interview on November 29, it was agreed to cancel claims 24-26, 32-36. Applicant agreed to file a terminal disclaimer with regard to the Applicant's patent 6,805,998.

If an extension of time is required to enter this Summary, or for any other reason, please consider this a petition for extension of time for the requisite number of months and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502931.

Conclusion

An RCE, IDS, and new claims are presented. The claims appear to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502931. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's Representative at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this communication, or if we can be of assistance in any other way.

Respectfully submitted,
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By his Representatives,

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By Charles A. Lemaire
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Date of Deposit: March 8, 2005

This correspondence is being deposited on the date indicated above with the United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.